Promotion of tourism potential in Andhra Pradesh

*12. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are drawing-up specific plans for the promotion of tourism potentiality in Andhra Pradesh during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how much budget is being earmarked for this purpose;

(c) whether the State Government has already identified some new tourist spots for development; and

(d) if so, the financial assistance given/proposed to be extended for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is mainly undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territories in their respective regions. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India also promotes and develops tourism through its offices overseas, production of publicity material, use of Information Technology etc. and also by providing financial assistance for development of tourist infrastructure projects which are prioritised in consultation with State Governments/Union Territories every year of the country as a whole including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The total budget of the Department of Tourism, Government of India in the current year is Rs. 125.00 crores which includes Rs. 29.10 crores for infrastructure development and Rs. 56.75 crores for promotion and publicity for the country as a whole including Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Andhra Pradesh Government has got a Master Plan prepared by World Tourism Organization which has identified specific areas in all the regions of tourist interest in the State like; Nagarjunasagar, Srisailam, Rishi Valley, Vishakhapatnam and its surrounding areas etc.

(d) Central financial assistance is extended for Tourism projects which are prioritised every year in consultation with respective State Governments/Union Territories depending upon their viability and availability of funds.

Proposals on agriculture submitted to WTO

*13. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have submitted its proposals to WTO on agriculture for the ongoing negotiations; and

(b) if so, the details of the significant elements of proposals to protect our agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has submitted its negotiating proposals in the areas of market access, domestic support, export competition and food security under the Agreement on Agriculture, to the WTO with the objective of protecting its food and livelihood security and creating increased market access opportunities with a view to promote agricultural exports.

The main elements of the proposals are:

— Additional flexibility for providing subsidies to key farm inputs for agricultural and rural development.

— Clarifications on certain implementation issues, such as offsetting of positive non-product specific support with negative product specific support, suitable methodology of notifying domestic support in stable currency to take care of inflation and depreciation.

— Maintenance of appropriate level of tariff bindings on agricultural products in developing countries, keeping in mind